

Section I: Preparation and Adoption

This Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) represents the first update to the 2012 Plan prepared by Lost Hills Water District (LHWD or District) to comply with the requirements of the SB X7-7 (the Water Conservation Act of 2009). The District has, however, been involved in other water management efforts, as itemized below.

A. Description of Previous Water Management Activities

Water management techniques have been utilized within the District since farming operations began in 1968. Water management practices were reviewed during preparation of the Salt Management Project report in 1983. In October of 1984, the District adopted its first written water conservation plan. In December 1992, the Board of Directors adopted a Water Management plan that conformed with the Agricultural Water Management Planning Act of 1986. In March of 1999, the Board adopted an Updated Water Management Plan for the District. On October 26, 2006 the District's Board adopted a Water Management Plan prepared in compliance with AB 3616 Agricultural Water Suppliers Efficient Water Practices Act of 1990, in accordance with the January 1, 1999 Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Efficient Water Management Practices by Agricultural Water Suppliers in California. The AWMC endorsed LHWD's October 2006 Water Management Plan on August 15, 2007.

In 2012, the District prepared and submitted the "2012 Agricultural Water Management Plan" in compliance with SB X7-7. The objectives of the AWMP were to evaluate the District's current water management practices and identify areas where significant improvements have been made, identify areas to improve the efficiency of water use within the District, and consider past and future water management strategies to increase the reliability of water deliveries to the District. The 2012 report concluded that the District had fully implemented all of the critical and the applicable conditional EWMPs.

The purposes for preparing the 2015 update to the 2012 Plan for the District are to:

1. Incorporate the requirements from the Governor's April 1, 2015 Executive Order (B-29-15) to include in the AWMP a detailed drought management plan in addition to quantification of water supplies and demands for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 years to the extent data is available.
2. Continue to evaluate the District's water management practices.
3. Identify areas to improve the efficiency of water use within the District
4. Consider past and future water management strategies to increase the reliability of water deliveries to the District.

B. Coordination Activities

1. Notification of AWMP Preparation

The Plan was prepared in cooperation with public entities including the Berrenda Mesa Water District (BMWD) and the Belridge Water Storage District (BWSD). Table 1 summarizes the agencies and parties notified regarding the coordination, adoption, and submittal activities of the AWMP.

LHWD solicited public input by inviting oral and written comments prior to and during the LHWD Board of Directors public hearing on November 5, 2015. No comments were received during the public hearing and the hearing was continued to December 3, 2015.

2. Public Participation

The District provided notice of public meeting in the Bakersfield Californian on November 8 and 15, 2015 to review and adopt the AWMP (Appendix 1). This notice included the notification of preparation and the notification of the date of the public meeting to be held to review and adopt the AWMP.

The District received responses and comments from a few landowners/customers regarding the AWMP via email, phone calls, and meetings. And, the AWMP was revised to incorporate their input.

Table 1. Summary of Coordination, Adoption, and Submittal Activities						
Potential Interested Parties	Notified of Plan Preparation	Requested Copy of Draft (Optional)	Commented on Draft/Action Taken by Supplier (Optional)	Notified of Public Meetings	Attended Public Meetings (Optional)	Copy of Adopted Plan/ Amendment Sent
Local County(s) Kern County						x
Groundwater Management Entity						
Urban Water Supplier(s) Lost Hills UD						
City or County Library						x
Local Agency Formation Commission						
DWR	x					x
Local Newspaper/ Equivalent Process Bakersfield Californian						
Other Local Government Agency						
Other Special Districts Berrenda Mesa Water District (BMWD) Belridge Water Storage District (BWSD) Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD) Semitropic Water Storage District (SWSD)	x					x
Regional Agency Kern County Water Agency (KCWA)	x					x
Environmental Citizen Group						
Land Use Agencies						
Business Group						
Social Citizen Group						
Other State Government Agency						
Federal Government Agency						
Other (identify) District Landowners /Water Users Ag Water Management Council						
Website						Plan to post by February 5, 2016

C. AWMP Adoption, Submittal, and Availability

1. AWMP Adoption

The District is submitting the AWMP included in this document in accordance with SB X7-7 requirements and which has been adopted by the Board of Directors on December 3, 2015. Resolution of Plan Adoption by the Board is included in Appendix 2.

2. AWMP Submittal

Copies of the finalized AWMP have been sent to the following agencies:

- DWR
- Kern County
- California State Library
- Lost Hills UD, Berrenda Mesa WD, and Belridge WSD

3. AWMP Availability

The AWMP Update has been posted on the District's web site on February 5, 2016 and can be viewed in the following link: <http://www.lhwd.org>.

D. AWMP Implementation

Plan implementation began with Board adoption on December 3, 2015 and will continue until the next update. Further details on water use efficiency implementation schedule and documentation are described in Sections VII and VIII.